

## CLAIMS

1. A file management device that manages a file that is divided  
5 into portions and stored across a plurality of storage devices including a removable storage device that stores information in a removable recording medium thereof, the file management device comprising:

an access request receiving unit operable to receive a  
10 request for accessing the file;

a location identifying unit operable to identify, with reference to the information stored in the removal recording medium, locations of the file; and

a file access unit operable to access the locations in  
15 response to the request.

2. The file management device of Claim 1, wherein

the file is constituted of data blocks,

the file management device further comprises an identifier  
20 receiving unit operable to receive an identifier of the file and identifiers of the data blocks,

the identifier of the file that is stored across the storage devices except for the removal storage device, identifiers of the storage devices, and locations of the data blocks within  
25 the storage devices are recorded on the removable recording medium in association with each other, and

the file access unit accesses the locations of the file

by specifying the locations of the data blocks and the identifiers of the storage devices with use of the identifiers of the data blocks.

5     3.     The file management device of Claim 2, wherein  
            the removal recording medium has recorded thereon address  
information used for accessing the storage devices via a network,  
and

            the file access unit accesses the locations of the file  
10    with use of the address information.

4.     A file management method used for managing a file that  
is divided into portions and stored across a plurality of storage  
devices including a removable storage device that stores  
15    information in a removable recording medium thereof, the file  
management method comprising steps of:

            receiving a request for accessing the file;  
            identifying, with reference to the information stored in  
the removable recording medium, locations of the file; and  
20    accessing the locations in response to the request.

5.     A file management program used for managing a file that  
is divided into portions and stored across a plurality of storage  
devices, which include a removable storage device that stores  
25    information in a removable recording medium thereof, the file  
management program enabling a computer to perform steps of:  
            receiving a request for accessing the file;

identifying, with reference to the information stored in the recording medium, locations of the file; and  
accessing the locations in response to the request.

5 6. A file management device that controls access to a file stored in a storage device that has two or more storage units, the file management device comprising:

an access request receiving unit operable to receive a request for accessing the file;

10 a management information acquiring unit operable to access the storage units and acquire management information relating to the file from one of the storage units; and

an access unit operable to access the file according to the management information.

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7. The file management device of Claim 6, wherein the management information includes:

identification information used for identifying, from the storage units, file storage units across which the file is stored;

20 and

location information that indicates locations of the file.

8. The file management device of Claim 7, wherein

the location information is indirect information, with

25 which the file access unit can not access the file directly,

the file management device further comprises a location information acquiring unit operable to access the file storage

units with reference to the indirect information, and acquire,  
from one of the storage units, direct location information, with  
which the file access unit can access the file directly, and  
the access unit accesses the file according to the direct  
5 location information.

9. The file management device of Claim 7, wherein  
the file storage units identified by the identification  
information are different from the one of the storage units which  
10 stores the management information.

10. A recording medium having recorded thereon management  
information, the management information comprising:  
identification information used for identifying a  
15 recording medium that stores a file; and  
location information that indicates a location of the file.